



**Susheila Jamieson**

Airborne





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# Susheila Jamieson

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The Fergusson Gallery  
25 November 2015 - 15 March 2016

Airborne



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The Trustees of the J D Fergusson Arts Award take great pleasure in presenting this catalogue of new work by Susheila Jamieson, this year's art award winner. It accompanies her exhibition, *Airborne*, held at The Fergusson Gallery in Perth.

Conferred annually, the award alternates between an exhibition award and a travel bursary. It epitomises the wishes of J D Fergusson, who wished to help and encourage artists of all ages. In his will Fergusson stated that any money made from his work should be used for this purpose. He had envisioned a double gallery, one which would exhibit his work and the second that of other independent artists. This was achieved in two stages; by the establishment of The Fergusson Gallery by Perth & Kinross Council in 1992 and with the formation of the

J D Fergusson Arts Award in 1995. These both realise Fergusson's vision and it is wonderful to see that 20 years from the date of its inception, the award is still continuing to support talented artists.

Susheila was unanimously chosen as this year's winner by the Trustees and with the help of three external assessors: the artist Joe Fan, art curator Alice Strang and Roderick Fraser of Fraser Gallery in St Andrews. The Trustees wish to thank them for their time and expertise. They would also like to express their gratitude to Perth Common Good Fund for their sponsorship of this catalogue.

**Roger Billcliffe**

*Chair, J D Fergusson Arts Award Trust  
October 2015*



**Falling** | Sculpture, Portland limestone,  
600 x 650 x 200mm

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The establishment of the J D Fergusson Arts Award Trust was enabled by generous financial backing from the J D Fergusson Art Foundation, who gifted the exceptional collection of Fergusson's work to the local authority in 1991. Perth & Kinross Council is pleased to continue its enthusiastic support of the award, which provides artists with the opportunity and encouragement to develop their work.

Founded in 1995 to offer opportunities for up and coming Scottish artists, the award has a distinct character which respects the wishes of the great Scottish Colourist painter in whose name it is made. A passionate advocate of

freedom of expression, Fergusson did much to champion the cause of struggling Scottish artists during his lifetime. In keeping with his ideals, the J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust focuses on singling out artists whose work has received no official recognition but who remain dedicated and committed to the pursuit of their own personal vision.

This year's winner, Susheila Jamieson, has created a wonderful collection of new art work. Her exhibition, Airborne, heralds an exciting new phase in her career, as well as celebrating the exciting cultural developments which are taking place within Perth and Kinross at this time.

**Councillor Bob Band**

*Lifelong Learning Committee, Convenor  
Perth & Kinross Council*



Susheila Jamieson | Artist

**Susheila Jamieson** was born and brought up in Dundee.

After graduating from St Andrews University in 1980 with an MA in Psychology she worked abroad for several years including a year in India and two and half in Egypt teaching English. She attended Edinburgh College of Art as a mature student graduating in 1992 with a BA in Sculpture. After completing a postgraduate year she worked as a tutor at Edinburgh College of Art for several years.

As well as exhibiting her own work in both group and solo shows, Susheila has worked extensively over the last 10 years with schools and communities developing artwork for both indoor and outdoor display. She has taken part in numerous residencies and international symposia including several in Germany, Poland and Kazakhstan.

She works in partnership with her husband James Gordon running Rachan Design, a small company specialising in public and community/socially engaged art. Past public commissions have included work for Scottish Natural Heritage, Sustrans, Newcastle City, East Lothian, South and North Lanarkshire Councils. Projects have explored themes of industrial heritage, mining, weaving, rose growing, sporting achievement and more. Where possible they like to link themes to the natural world.

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Aspects of nature and landscape are the main inspiration for my work. For this exhibition I proposed looking at the element of Air. Air is unique in that it cannot be seen and yet it surrounds us all the time. Like many aspects of nature it can be both gentle and seductive and also powerful and terrifying.

Air is a huge subject area - it supports most life forms, is a source of wind and pressure, different lichens indicate air quality, air transports visible seeds and invisible bacteria. Air, ephemeral and seemingly insubstantial, sculpts landscapes around the world - from deserts to icy snow fields. Air in combination with water and other chemicals creates clouds, ice or rain depending on temperature. As a subject matter it can be investigated on various levels ranging from the microscopic to global aspects of air movement and how these affect our planet's climate.

I had planned (and tried) to create a more ephemeral type of work in keeping with the characteristic features of this element, however I soon realised that the physical process of creating work is very important to me. Taking away material - whether rubbing back into a soft pencil sketch of an initial idea, working back into a clay model, removing

stone, carving into a wood block, or taking printing ink off a collagraph plate - to create forms and images seems to be the way in which I work best and is most meaningful to me.

The sculptures and prints in this exhibition explore ideas of supporting/floating, air flow and the physical manifestation of air as clouds. A lot of these ideas have come from living and working outdoors in the Scottish Borders. I am acutely aware of changes in weather and skies, see airborne seeds and pollen being blown over fields, and the lichens growing on trees tell me that I live in an area with very clean air. Buzzards and occasionally an eagle soar overhead making use of unseen thermal air currents.

I would like to thank the Trustees and their external assessors for selecting me to be the recipient of the 2015 J D Fergusson Arts Award. The focus of an exhibition and financial support to assist in the development of new work has been invaluable and I intend to continue researching and developing work in response to this unique multifaceted element.

**Susheila Jamieson**



**Release 1** | Sculpture, Portland limestone, 735 x 365 x 200mm



**Northern Lights** | Collagraph, 29 x 21 mm







**Blue Clouds** | Collagraph, 29 x 21mm



**Feather 1** | Sculpture, Portland limestone, 500 x 250 x 150mm



**Abstract Clouds** | Collagraph, 21 x 29mm



**Flutter** | Sculpture, Portland limestone, 1200 x 600 x 650mm





**Feather 2** | Sculpture, Portland limestone,  
600x250x125mm



**Release II** | Sculpture, Portland limestone, 640 x 465 x 250mm



**Feather 3** | Sculpture, Portland limestone, 500 x 225 x 150mm

**EXHIBITIONS****2014**

Caol Rhuadh Sculpture Park, Argyll.  
Group show.

**2013/14**

Stone Wall Gallery, East Lothian.  
Group show.

**2013**

Heartwood, Blairgowrie.  
Group show.

Threave Gardens, National Trust Scotland,  
Dumfriesshire.

**2011**

PVAF exhibition at Birnam, Dunkeld.

**2008/09/10**

Newby Hall, Ripon.  
Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition.

**2007**

“Sea Change” Harestanes, Scottish  
Borders. Stone carvings and mosaics.  
Solo show.

**2006**

Prestongrange Industrial Heritage  
Musuem. Group show at end of  
residency.

**2003**

Logan Botanic Garden. Solo show.

**1997**

Dawyck Botanic Garden. Solo show.

**SYMPOSIA**

18th and 19th International Sculpture  
Symposia Hainich, Germany: 2014, 2015  
selected for 20th Symposium in 2016.

International Sculpture Symposia,  
Murwano Goslina, Poland: 2009, 2010  
and 2014.

3rd International Sculpture Symposium  
Ust Kamenogorst, Kazakhstan: 2011.

1st and 2nd International Stone Carving  
Symposia Clach I and II, Scotland: 2006,  
2007.

**AWARDS****2013**

Enterprise in Education Champion Award,  
Falkirk Council for legacy artwork project,  
project with primary schools in Bo’ness.

**2011**

Awarded 3rd prize at International  
Sculpture Symposium in Kazakhstan.

**1994**

Land of Creativity award to purchase  
stone carving tools to run workshops.

**1991**

Andrew Grant Travel Scholarship in 1991  
from Edinburgh College of Art.

**RESIDENCIES****Artist Residency 2010**

Dunning Primary School with Perth &  
Kinross Council. Working with pupils to  
develop an exterior artwork for school.

**Artist in Residence 2006/7**

Prestongrange Industrial Heritage  
Musuem with East Lothian Council.  
Working with various user groups and  
also developing own work.

**Craft Residency 2003**

St Gabriel’s Primary School, East Lothian.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS****Catalogue photographs**

James Gordon

**Artist portrait photograph**

Sejin Moon

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**Susheila Jamieson [www.rachan.co.uk](http://www.rachan.co.uk)**

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**Perth Common Good Fund**



# Perth & Kinross The Fergusson Gallery

The Fergusson Gallery  
Marshall Place, PERTH, PH2 8NS

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